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USSR: The debate among top Soviet leaders over the allocation of resources has again broken into the open.

In an article in the latest issue of the party's theoretical journal, Kommunist, Politburo member Polyansky, the regime's top agricultural administrator, asserts that agricultural investment is being slighted. The magazine went to press on 14 October, after the Supreme Soviet had approved the economic plan for 1968 and a general projection for 1969 and 1970. These try to meet military and consumer requirements by curtailing long-range investment plans, particularly those drawn up in 1965 for agriculture.

Arguing against those who contend that the good harvests of the past two years permit less attention to agriculture, Polyansky stressed that the development of agriculture "is now as vital and urgent as ever." He reached back to September 1965 for a quote from General Secretary Brezhnev: "Certain elements of the planning and economic apparatus... thus far do not seem to understand the importance of the most rapid growth in agriculture... these tendencies are extremely dangerous."

Polyansky indicated last March that he was unhappy with the trend in agricultural investments. His statement of dissent now, after the government has formulated its economic policy, is considerably more venturesome. He did not identify his opponents, but his failure to stress the importance of consumer goods production stands in sharp contrast to Premier Kosygin's recent statements, suggesting some differences between the two. By citing Brezhnev, Polyansky also was reminding his readers of the party chief's sponsorship of the program announced in 1965 which promised a persistent attack on agricultural problems through 1970.

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Brezhnev himself has not reaffirmed his advocacy of this program recently, and he seems to have given in to pressures from other claimants to resources. It appears that the pressure for increased defense spending and the need to placate consumers in the jubilee year led a majority of the Politburo to outvote Polyansky on next year's plan. However, since the plan figures for 1969 and 1970 are not hard and fast, Polyansky may be looking ahead to another stage in the debate.

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South Arabia: The danger of new fighting between rival nationalist groups is increasing, as attempts to form a national government falter.

Tension between supporters of the National Liberation Front (NLF) and those of the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (FLOSY) in the South Arabian Army and police forces has been rising rapidly in the past two weeks. An attempt last week by a pro-NLF police contingent to extend NLF influence into an area now predominantly FLOSY threatens to splinter the security forces into opposing factions. [REDACTED]

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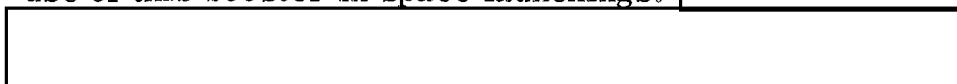
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USSR: An SS-9 ICBM was used yesterday to orbit Cosmos 185, a maneuverable test satellite. This is the first time the SS-9 has orbited a payload not related to weapons development and points to an expanded use of this booster in space launchings. [redacted]

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